

# VT MUNCH TIMES

## Coming to a Tray near You!

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*VT Munch Times is a biweekly newsletter brought to you by the Child Nutrition Team at Vermont Agency of Education, designed to include a USDA Policy update, a fun nutrition fact and up-to-date resources for the coming weeks. Look for these updates every other Thursday!*

### Munch on this:

#### Policy Update: **Student Eligibility**

This is a reminder that Reduced-eligible students now eat **FREE LUNCH** as well as Breakfast!!

*\*\*Please make sure you are still keeping track of the students as “reduced” and claim them as such in your monthly claim\*\**

*You will be reimbursed the additional 40 cents through State Funds, the same way you are with Breakfast*

[http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm\\_nutrition/school\\_nutrition.html](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_nutrition/school_nutrition.html)

#### Other Reminders:

- Eligibility must be determined within 10 days of receiving an application
- Eligibility status is carried over from the previous year for up to 30 operating days (beginning with the first operating day of school) into the current school year or until a new eligibility determination is made, either approved or denied. The new eligibility determination supersedes the carryover eligibility
- A parent/guardian signature and date is required
- Date approved and signature of Approving Official is required
- Be sure to transfer information to all schools included on the application to make sure benefits are made available to all students in the household
- Keep documentation!
  - Master Lists are key in order to keep track of history
  - You must keep all Direct Certification because once a student is listed, they are eligible for the entire school year
  - You must keep all paperwork for 3 years plus the current year
- Categorically Eligible students need to have a case number listed if they are getting 3-Squares Benefits
- Applications selected for Verification must be reviewed and signed by a Confirming Official

## **News from you: Your Story**

**Share your success stories** with others who might be able to learn from them, too- *you are the experts!* And in each upcoming newsletter we will feature a different story.

For instance, tell us:

- How you increased participation.
- How you started a breakfast program.
- How you got kids to want to eat vegetables.
- How you started a nutrition education program.
- How you revitalized the school garden.
- Or whatever successes have improved your food service program!

Like this Wisconsin teacher's inspiring story about their school garden: <http://ow.ly/oOzV4>

Send stories via email to [Dani.Bois@state.vt.us](mailto:Dani.Bois@state.vt.us)

## **Resources:**

**Follow us on Twitter:** [https://twitter.com/VTED\\_Nutrition](https://twitter.com/VTED_Nutrition)

### **Healthy lunches from coast to coast**

National School Lunch Week (NSLW) 2013 will be held October 14-18, and everyone -- from those overlooking purple mountain majesties to the folks near our country's fruited plains -- is getting an early start on planning. This year's theme, "School Lunch Across the USA," will celebrate the regional cuisine, culture and flavors found in every corner of the country. Check out the online toolkit at [www.schoolnutrition.org/nslw](http://www.schoolnutrition.org/nslw) for helpful templates, tools, artwork and presentations.

### **Harvest of the Month by Green Mountain Farm to School**

Harvest of the Month provides ready-to-go materials for your classroom, cafeteria, and community to promote local, seasonal foods. Each month has a different theme, and September is Tomatoes! Posters, recipes, menu inserts and more can be found for FREE download at [vermontharvestofthemonth.org](http://vermontharvestofthemonth.org).

### **Whole Kids Foundation Accepting Applications for School Garden Grant Program**

Grants of \$2,000 are available to public and private K-12 schools in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada to help fund school garden projects....

[http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp\\_item.jhtml?id=431200051](http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id=431200051)

Deadline: October 31, 2013

Posted: July 26, 2013

### **Want to have your school to be recognized for national excellence?!**

More than 10 Vermont schools have applied for the HealthierUS School Challenge this year! This award is given to less than 6% of the nation's schools and you deserve to be one of them, check out the new section of our website to find out how <http://education.vermont.gov/nutrition/hussc>

Disclaimer: *VT Munch Times* provides general information to assist Vermont sponsors of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Child Nutrition Programs. It does not represent all federal and state requirements and regulations regarding the operation of USDA school nutrition programs. The inclusion of links to external Web sites does not constitute an endorsement by the Vermont State Agency of Education to the information, products, services or opinions contained therein

*VT Munch Times* is [archived](#) on the Agency of Education website. For information which is three months or older, or for other questions, please contact Brooke Gannon, Child Nutrition Consultant, at (802) 828-5152 or [brooke.gannon@state.vt.us](mailto:brooke.gannon@state.vt.us).

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